Unauthorised construction in MIG Flats of DDA in Friends Colony, New Delhi

3817 SHRI V GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Development Authority had constructed five metre wide service lane behind its block of MIG flats in Friends Colony, East of New Delhi;

(b) whether the attention of the DDA has been drawn to the encroachment on the said service lane and if so, what action has been taken to remove such encroachments and construction of boundary wall to prevent future encroachment,

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the flats allotted in the colony in 1984 are still not taken possession by the allottees; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the DDA for re allotment of the vacant flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) There is no encroachment on the service lane. As per decision of the Court, no boundary wall can be constructed.

(c) and (d) Possession of 3 out of 16 MIG flats has not been taken over. One out of them has been reallotted, one is to be reallotted and in the case of the third, there is a stay from the Court.

Radioactivity in imported foods

3818. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been reports of radioactivity in foods imported from Europe after nuclear accident in USSR,

(b) whether adequate steps have been taken to ensure that food imports are in accordance with limits laid down by EEC for imports and use in countries;

(c) which is the authority under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) to draw samples of food affected by radioactivity, and

(d) whether any standard for limit of radioactivity has been laid down for milk products, pulses and other farm products and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) As per the information available from the Department of Atomic Energy, the radioactivity level of samples of imported food stuffs was found to be within acceptable limits stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(b) and (c) Samples of imported food articles are lifted by the Enforcement staff of the Port Health Organisation to ensure the safety of food stuffs from radioactivity The acceptable limits stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board are taken as guidelines for ensuring safety of food stuffs. These limits are lower than EEC limits.

(d) The limits of cesium 137 provisionally suggested by the BARC are being taken as guidelines while analysing the samples of imported food stuffs.

Report of S. N. Banerjee Committee

3819. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE

be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that S.N Banerjee Committee was appointed in 1984 to report on corrective steps to eliminate use of dangerous pesticides in Agriculture and Health operation and if so, what are the details of terms of reference, composition and terms of this Committee;

(b) whether Committee has completed its assignment and submitted its Report, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how many pesticides have been approved for use so far and whether permissible levels of these pesticides in soil, air, water, farm products have been laid down under PFA and any other rules, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a high level Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.N Banerjee to examine the utility of the pesticides in India which are banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries. The composition and the terms of reference of the Committee are given in the Statement (See below)

Initially, the farm of this Committee was for a period of two years, which was extended. The term now stands extended up to August, 1988. The Committee has to submit its report in parts.

(b) The Committee has not completed its assignment. However, it has submitted reports on DDT, BHC, Aldrin, Dieldrin. Chlordane, Heptachlor and EDB. The results of study would become available only after detailed examination of all the reports and Government decisions thereon.

(c) The Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, has so far approved 118 pesticides for use in the country. The permissible levels of pesticides are not laid down by this Ministry. However, the available information shows that under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the rules, 1955 the Government has fixed pesticide residue tolerance limits for 31 pesticides in different food commodities. However, no standards have been developed in air water or soil for pesticides residues.

Statement

Composition of the expert committee

1. Dr. S. N. Banerjee, Retired Plant Protection Adviser. . . . Chairman
2. Dr. R. L. Rajak, Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India. Member
3. Prof. Usha K. Luthra , Sr. Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, *New Delhi*. . . . . Member
4. Dr. G. K. Girish, Joint Commissioner, Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, (Department of Food), *New Delhi*. . . . . Member
5. Dr. Giyanendra Nath, Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Science & Technology, *New Delhi*. . . . . Member
6. Dr. T. S. Dikshith, Assistant Director, Industrial Toxicology Res. Centre, *Lucknow*. . . . . Member
7. Dr. K. N. Mehrotra, Prof. of Eminence, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, *New Delhi*. . . . Member
8. Dr. S.K. Mukerjee Prof. of Eminence (Retd.), *New Delhi*. . . Member

9. Dr. V. P. Gergav, Associate Professor of Toxicology, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, *Jabalpur*. . . . . Member

10. Dr. A. N. Raichowdhuri, Director, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, *Delhi*. . . . . Member

11. Dr. S. J. Rahman, Assistant Director (Entomology), National Institute of Communicable Diseases, *Delhi*. . . . . Member

12. Shri M. S Murthy, Adviser (Chemicals), Ministry of Industry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, *New Delhi*. . . Member

13. Dr. S R. Dwivedi, Director, National Malaria Eradication Programme *Delhi*. . . . . Member

14. Shri J. C. Jaisanim, Secretary, Central Committee for Food Standards, Directorate General of Health Services, *New Delhi*. . . . Member

15. Dr. B. S. Attri, Senior Environmental Officer, Department of Environment, *New Delhi*. . . . . Member

16. Assistant Director General (PP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, *New Delhi*. . . . . Member

17. Dr. A. S Sirohi, Head of Division of Agricultural Eeonomics, I.A.R I *New Delhi*. . . . . Member

18. Dr. Jaffar Futehally, Chairman, Pesticides Environmental Pollution Advisory Committee, *Bangalore*. . . . . Member

19. Dr. D. P. Nag, Deputy Director (Medical Toxicology), Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, *Faridabad*. . . . Member

20. Dr. D. Kanungo, Medical Toxicologist, Dte of PPQ & S, *Faridabad* . Member-Secretary

TERMS OF REFERENCE

(1) The Committee will examine the utility of pesticides banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries, in India;

(2) The Committee will give suggestions in regard to safer substitutes for pesticides identified and reviewed at (1) above.

(3) In case, any of the pesticides identified at (1) above cannot be banned altogether, the Committee will give suggestions in regard to the extent of restrictions required to be imposed in India in the use of those pesticides; and

(4) The Committee will also suggest the agro-climatic conditions under which, the pesticides identified at (1) above may be used and can give safe/effective results, and the Committee will identify the regions in India under which particular pesticides could be used safely

Low agricultural productivity

3820. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural unrest due to low payment of wages for agricultural labour is one of the reasons for low agricultural productivity as reported in the Economic Times of 10th November, 1987, and

(b) whether the minimum wages of farm labour would be suitably raised on the lines of the Central Government Employees, including housing health and education facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA). (a) No, Sir. Agricultural productivity for all crops has been increasing at a compound growth rate of 2.03 percent per annum during the period 1967-68 to 1985-86 The agricultural productivity was at its highest during 1985-86 when its index reached as high as 146.3 (with triennium ending 1969-70 as base—100).